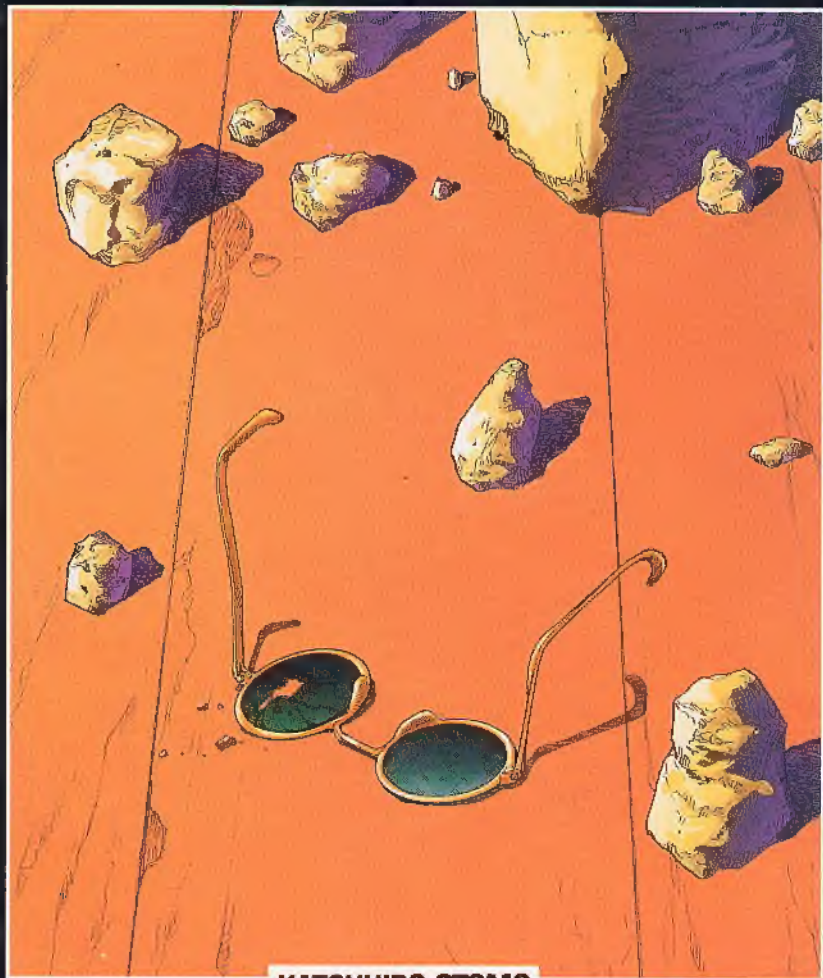


# AKIRA

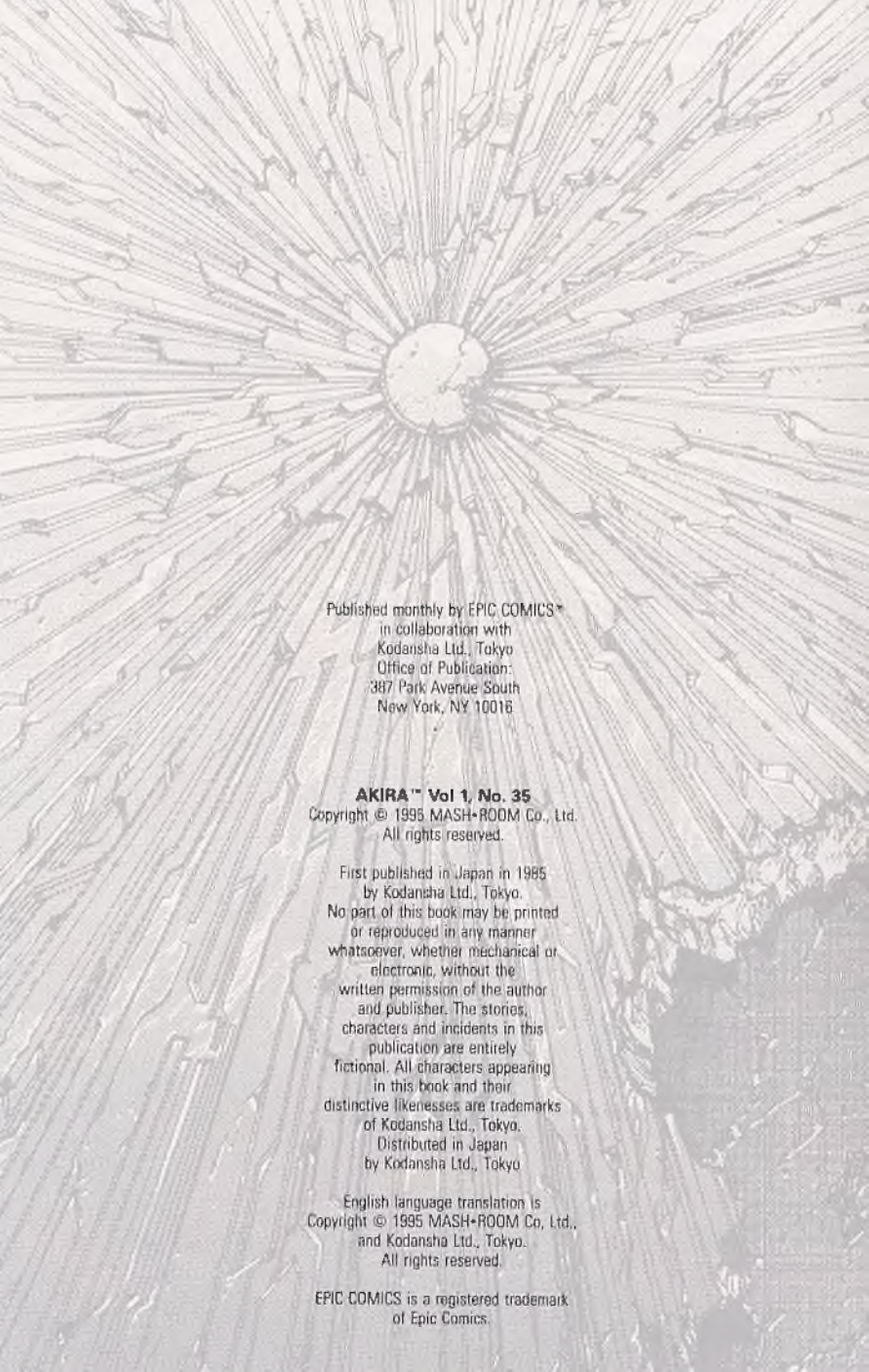
35™



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**KATSUHIRO OTOMO**



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# AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 35

## FACE TO FACE



## WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



**2**030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known only as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay, Ryu**, and a formidable woman

named **Chiyoko**.

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru, Numbers 25** and **27**. The blind **Lady Miyako** — **Number 19**, now heads a great religious cult. **Number 41** is **Tetsuo**, who lost his arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SDL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is **Number 28** — **Akira** — a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago, when, with a mental blast, he started the Third World War. He was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo**. Now Japan exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered, and the military's formidable caretaker robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Em-**



**Akira**



**Chiyoko**



**The Colonel**



**Takashi**



**pire** is formed, a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal, psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on Tetsuo's forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one

Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** will only lead to disaster.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo**, because **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers and strike as one. Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. The loss of control has grown worse since the murder of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**.

**Kaneda** teams up with **Kai**



**Tetsuo**



**Nezu**



**Sakaki**



**Ryu**



and **Joker** — a friend and a rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a force of refugees and street rats to help **Kay** in her battle with **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on.

Then, the international fleet in the bay sends fighter planes to rain death upon **Neo-Tokyo**, causing chaos among all the combatants. Enraged, **Tetsuo** teleports himself to space, seizing control of the orbiting laser cannon. He fires the weapon at the fleet, and then brings it crashing down upon the flagship, killing the commanders and forcing a mass evacuation of military personnel and the few scientists who survive.

Inland, Kay's friends and supporters are scattered, some of them badly injured. The **Colonel**, crippled by the strike,

aids **Kay**, as **Miyako** re-establishes her psychic bond with the girl. On the return to earth, **Tetsuo** finds Kaori's body.

Using his telepathic powers, he is able to contact the soul of his lost love, but he can only reach her spirit for a brief, painful moment. Griefstricken, he carries her underground to the cryogenic chamber where **Akira** once slept. Drawn by the similarity of their powers, **Akira** follows **Tetsuo**.

Along the way, he is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**, **Chiyoko** and **Ryu**. They prepare to make a stand in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.



**Kaori**



**Masaru**



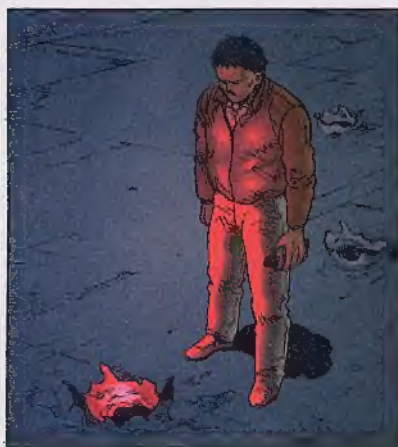
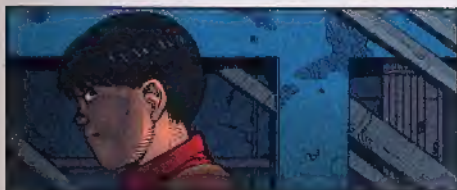
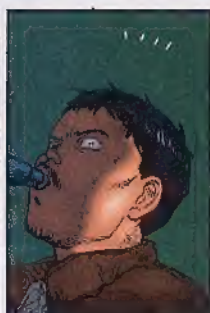
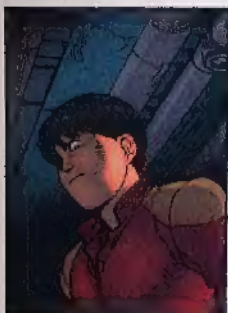
**Kai**



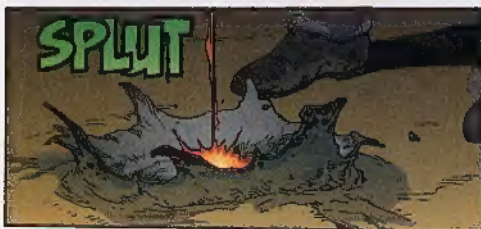
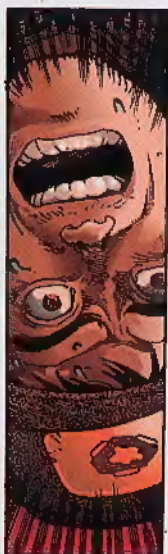
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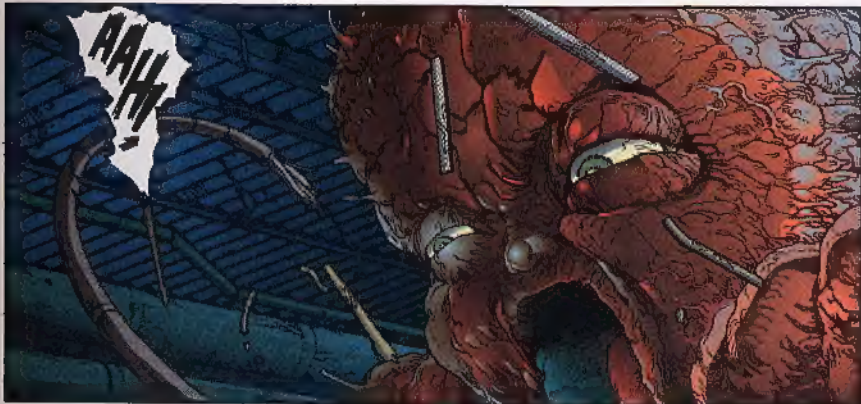


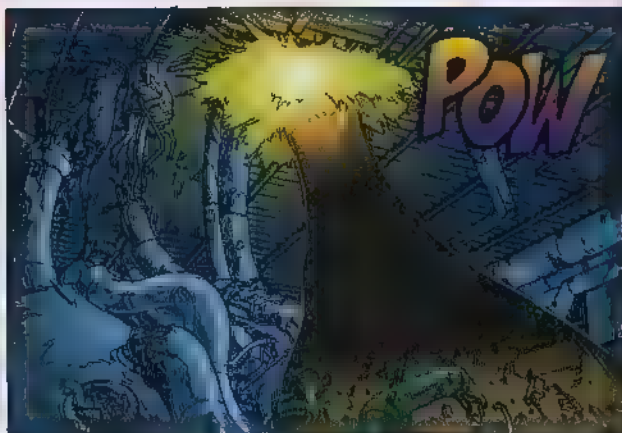
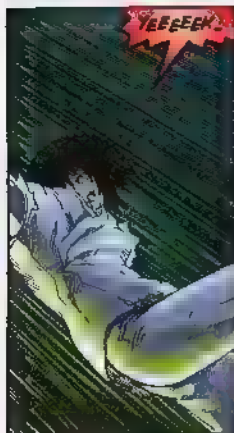
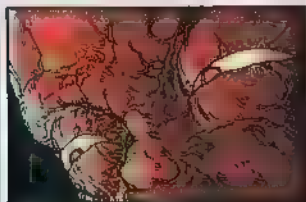
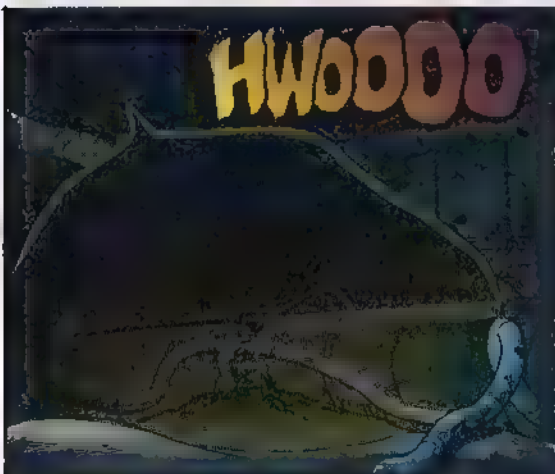
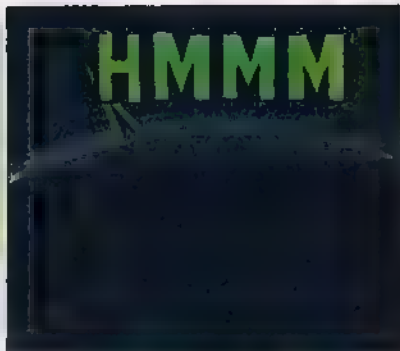
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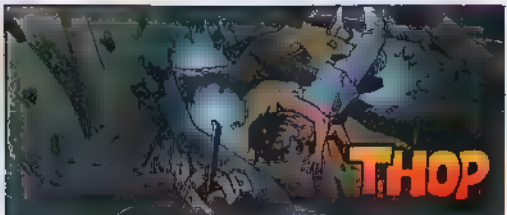
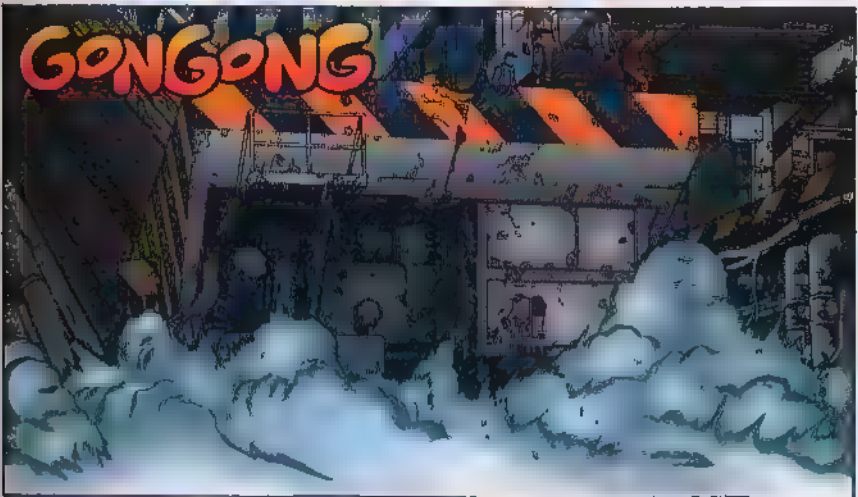


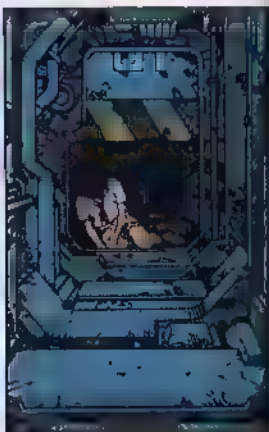
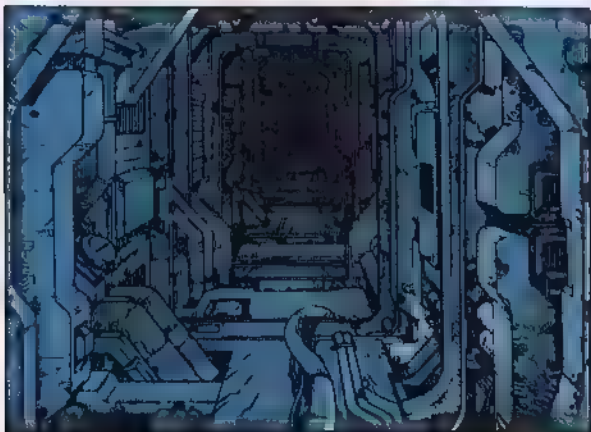


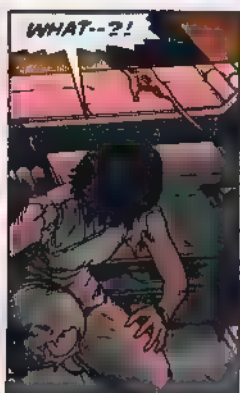
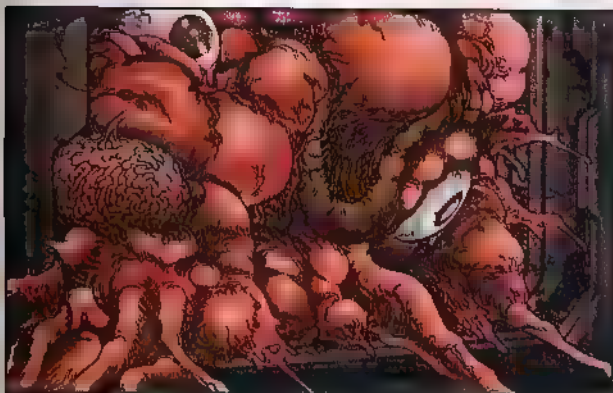
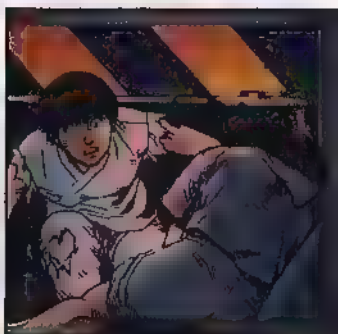
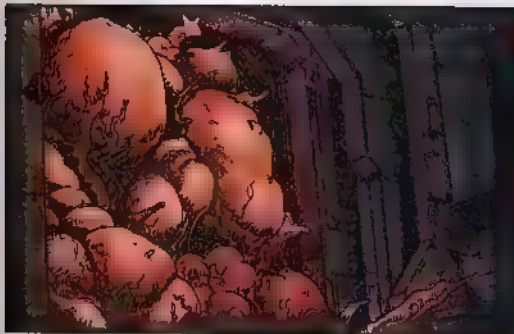




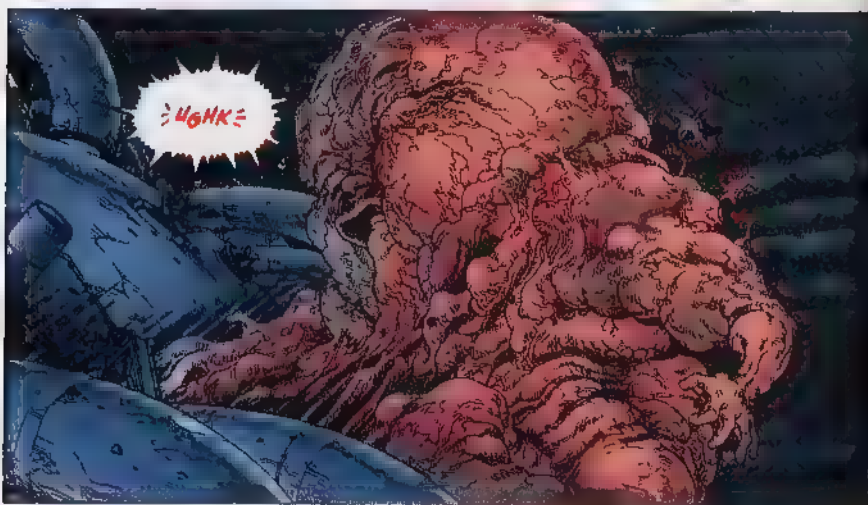
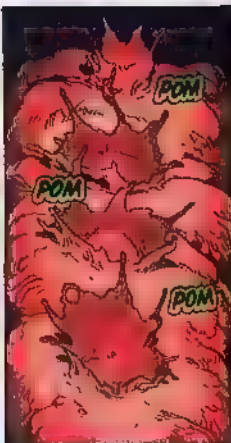
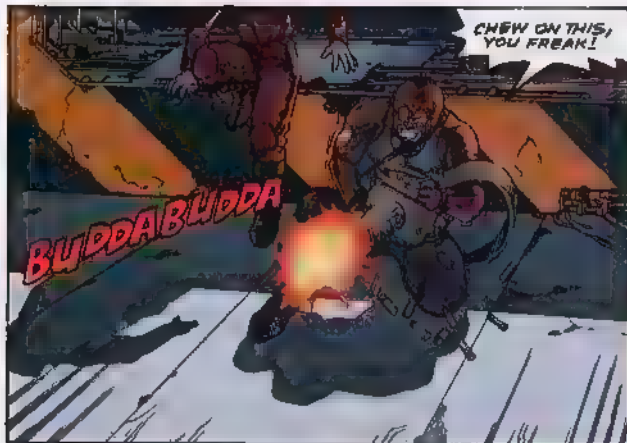


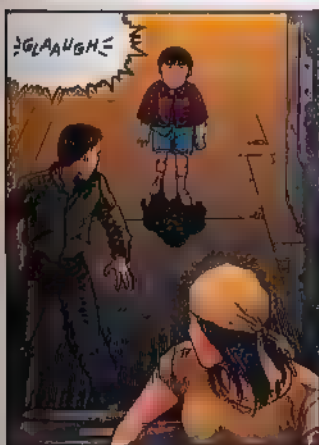
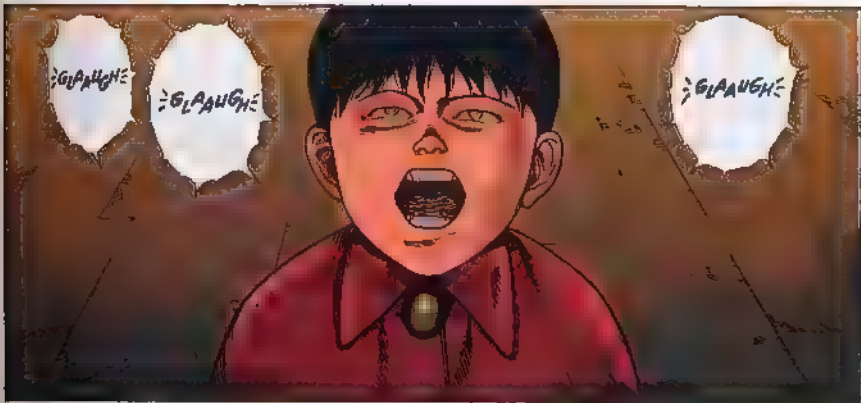


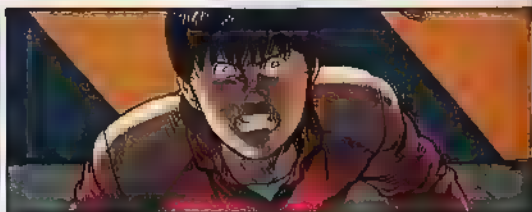
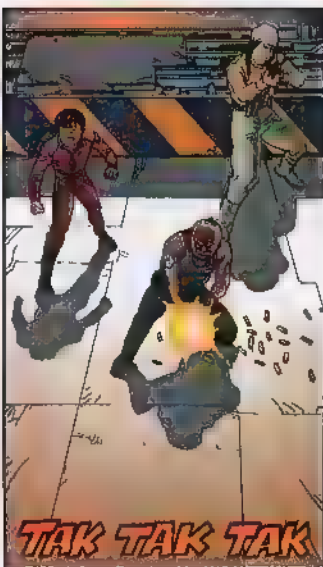
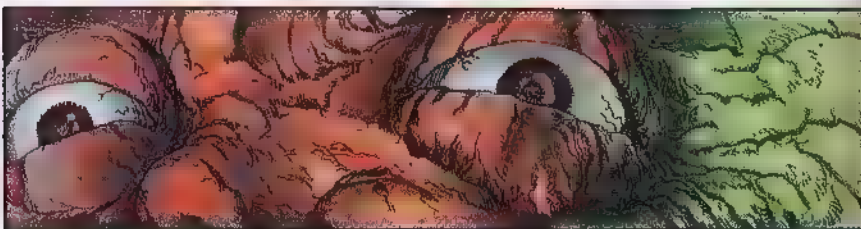
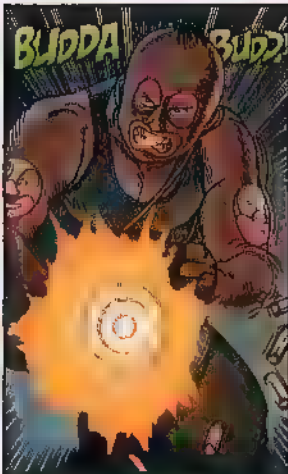




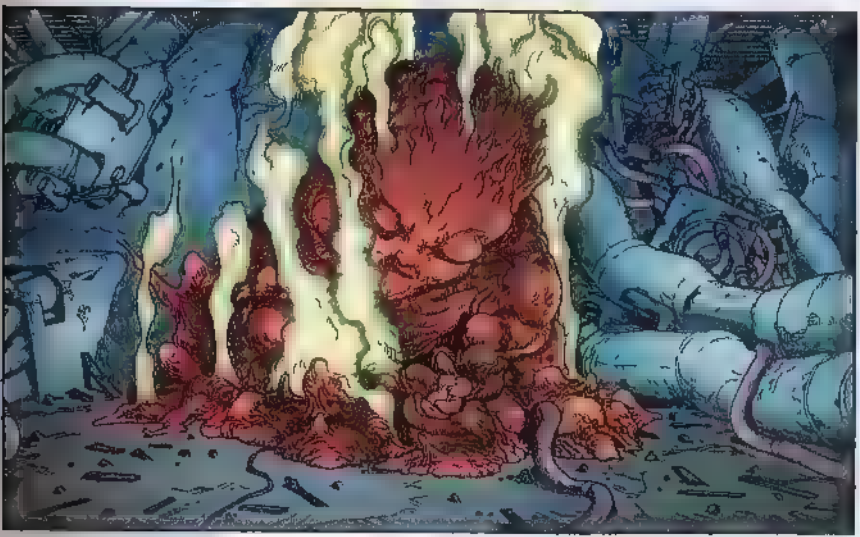


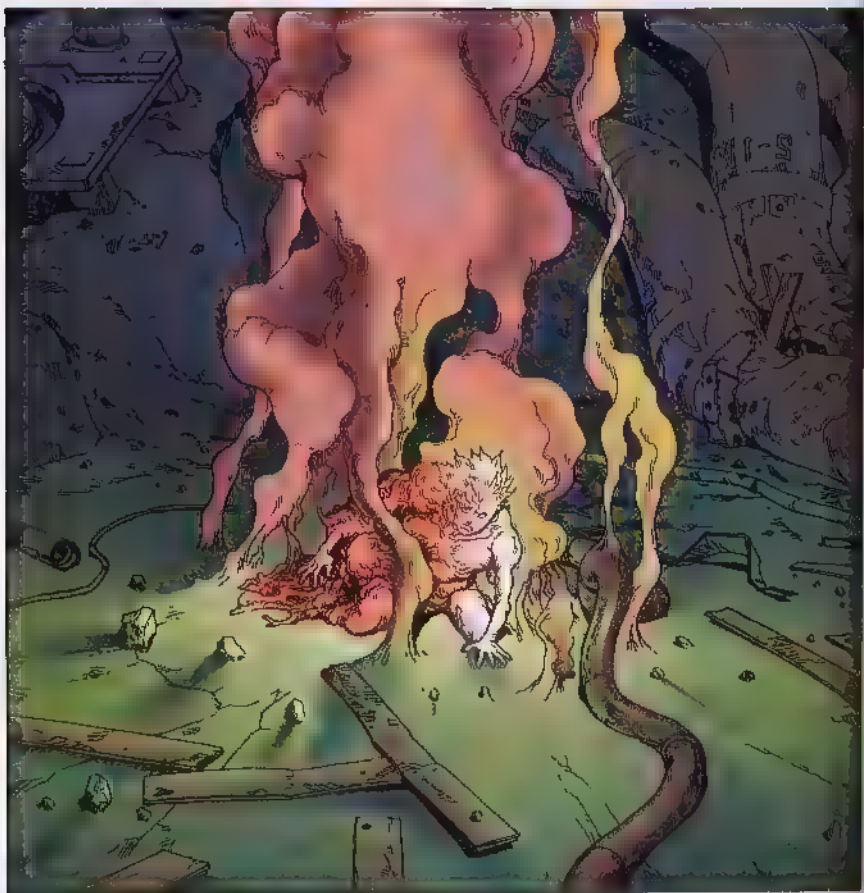
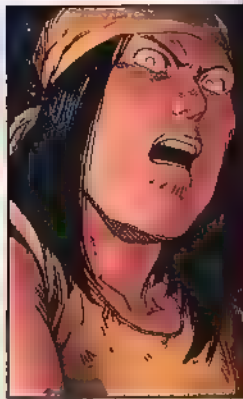
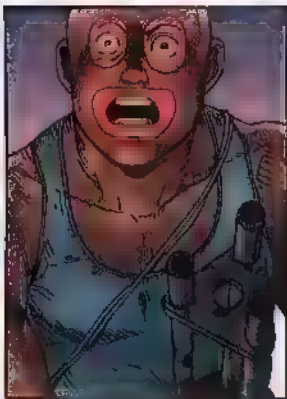
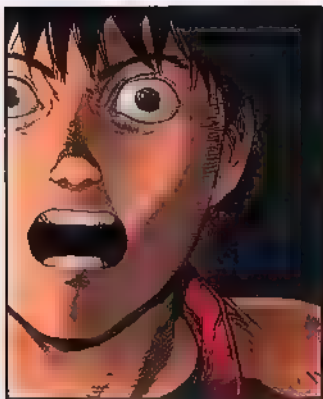














A close-up of a young man with dark hair and a wide-eyed, shocked expression. He has sweat drops on his face and his mouth is open in a gasp. The background is dark and indistinct.

TETSUO



A wide shot of a desolate, war-torn landscape. In the foreground, a man in a red jumpsuit stands with his back to the viewer, looking towards a large, gnarled tree trunk. To the left, a figure lies motionless on the ground, partially obscured by debris. The ground is cracked and littered with rubble. In the background, more ruins and a hazy sky are visible.

KA

...NE

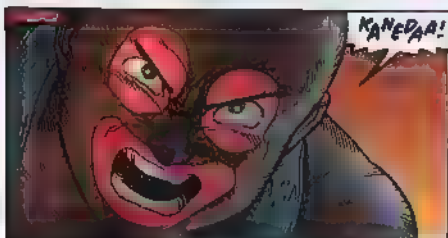
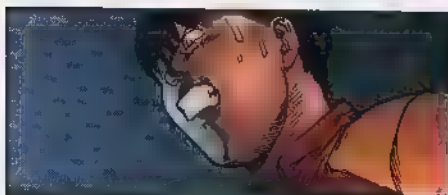
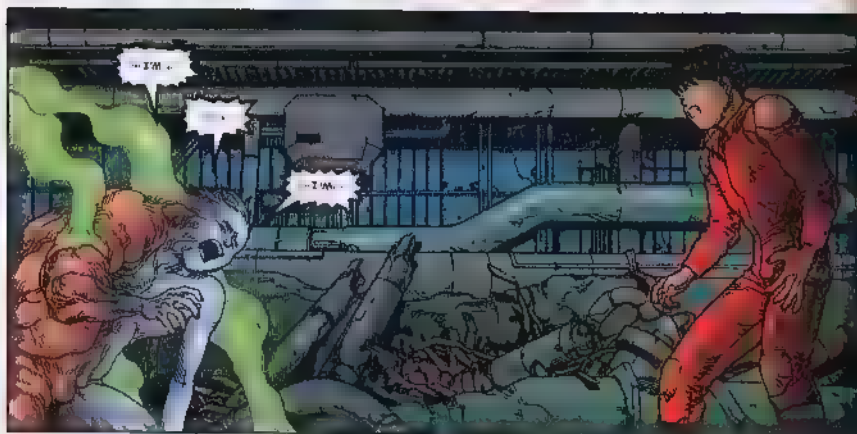
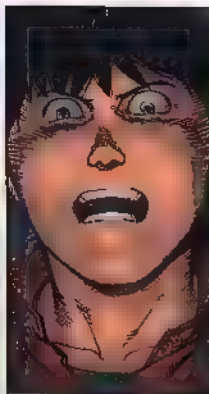


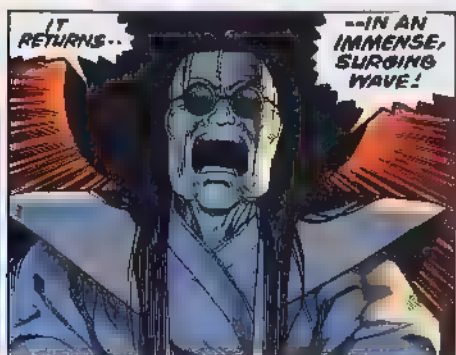
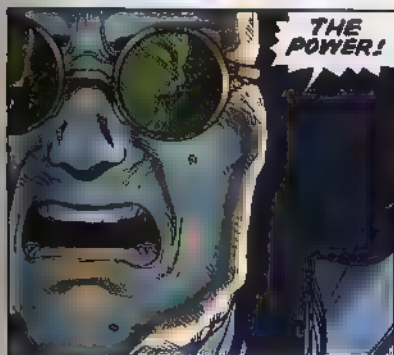
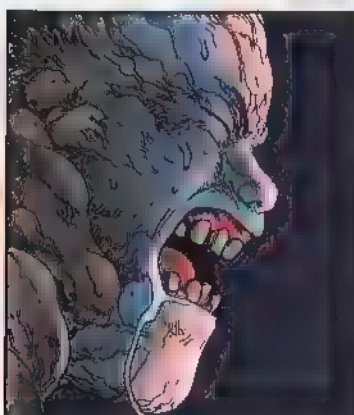
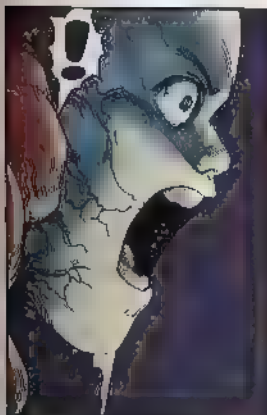
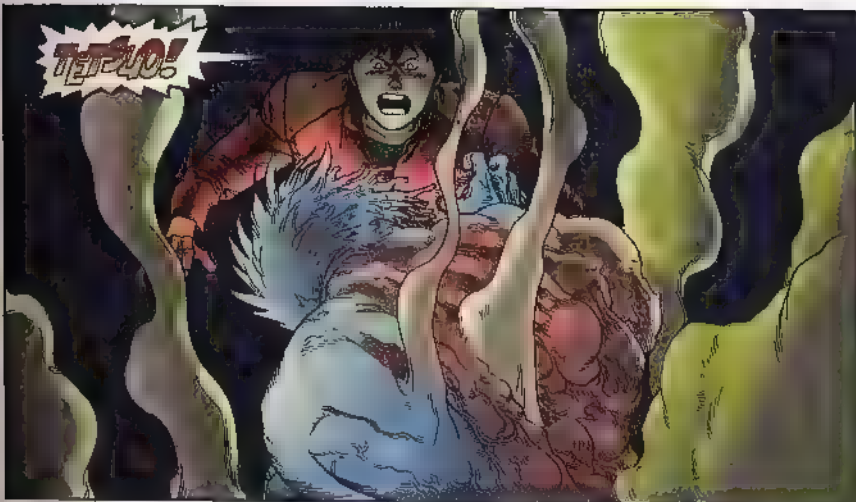
A close-up of a man's face, showing a look of intense shock and distress. His eyes are wide open, and his mouth is agape as if he is shouting. He has sweat on his forehead. The background is dark.

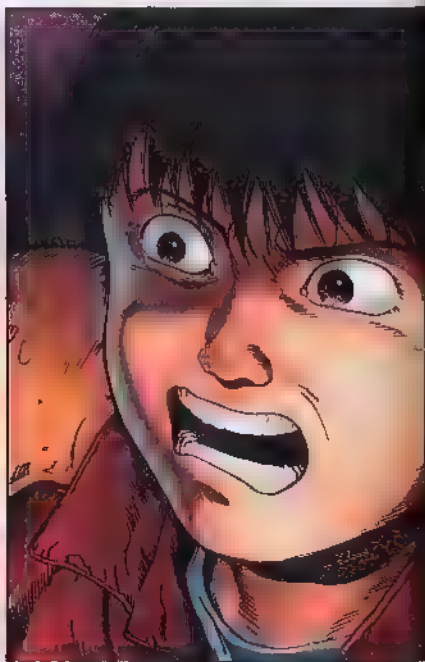
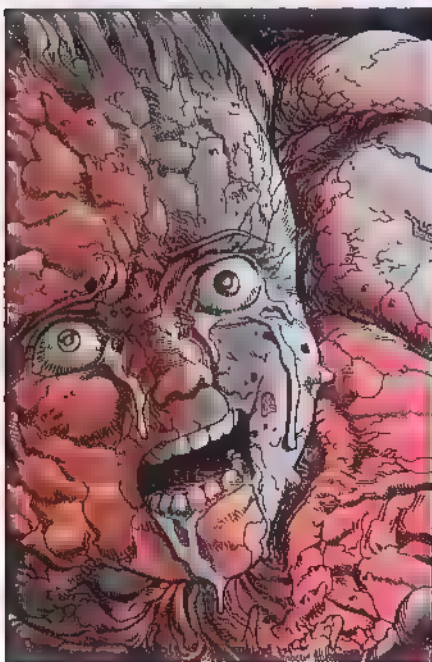
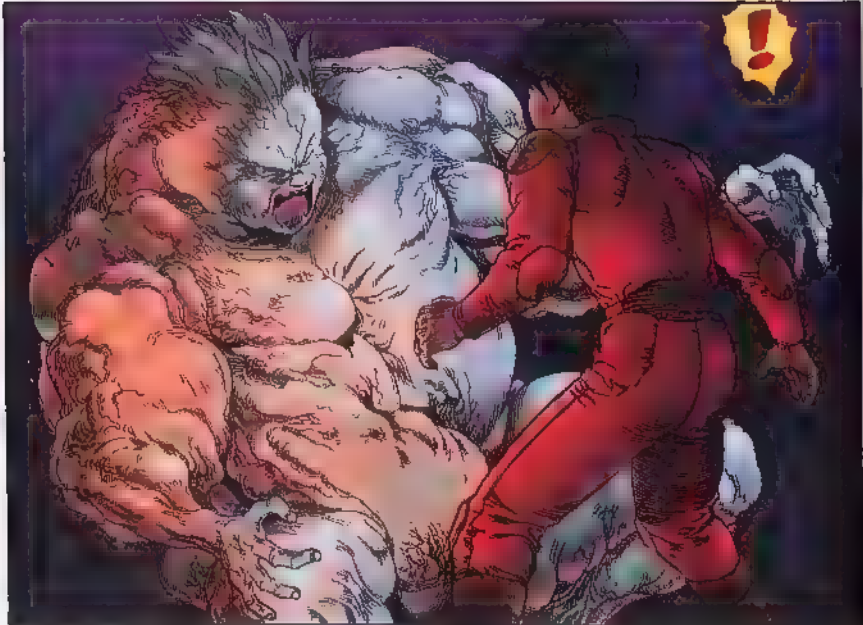
TETSUO...  
YOU...

...Y-YOU...  
YOU--!

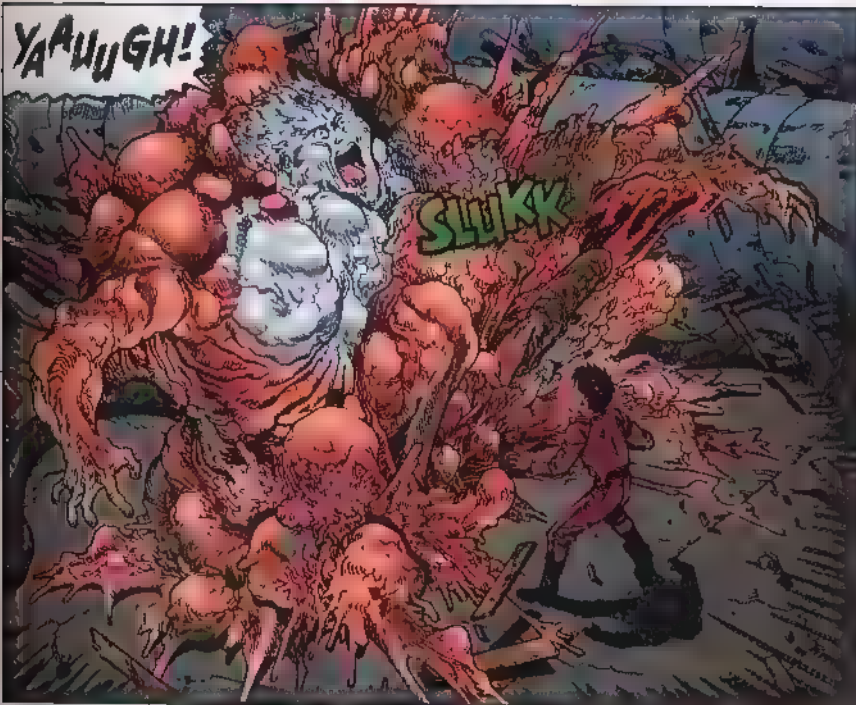


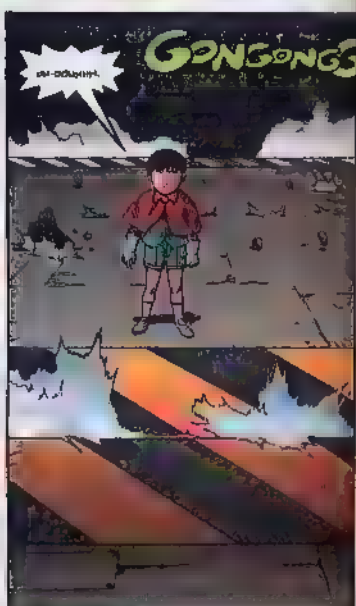
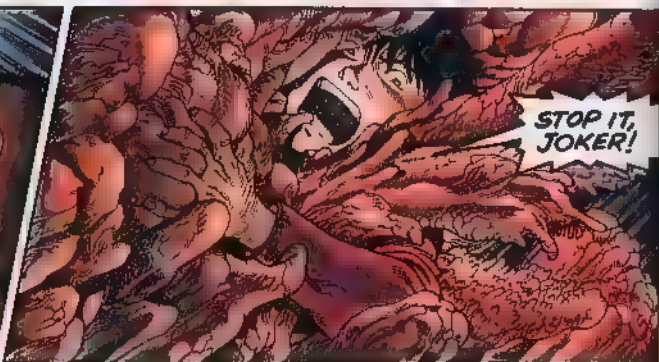




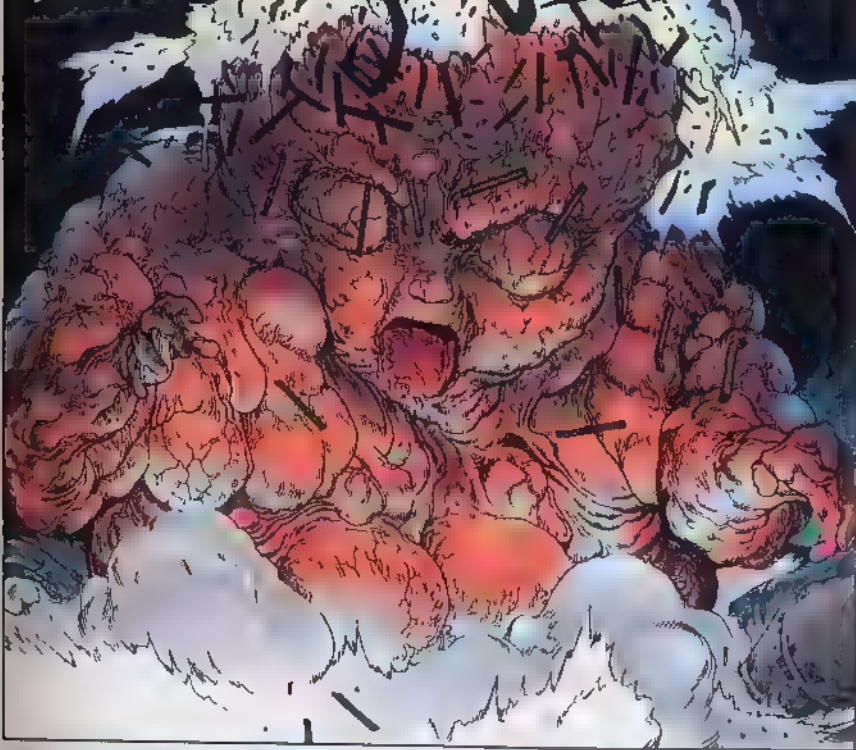




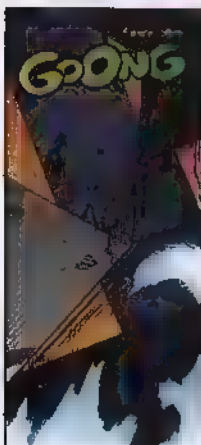
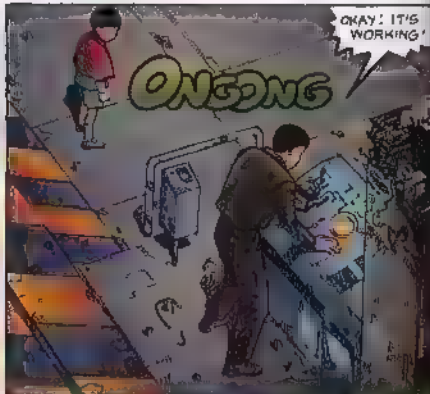
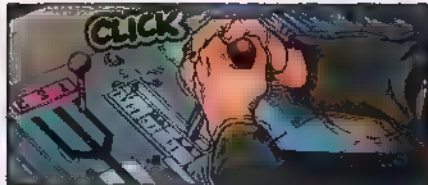


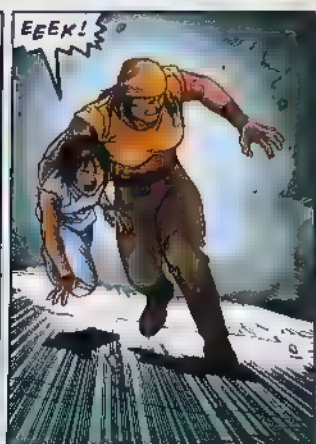
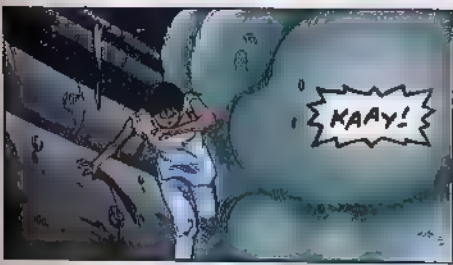
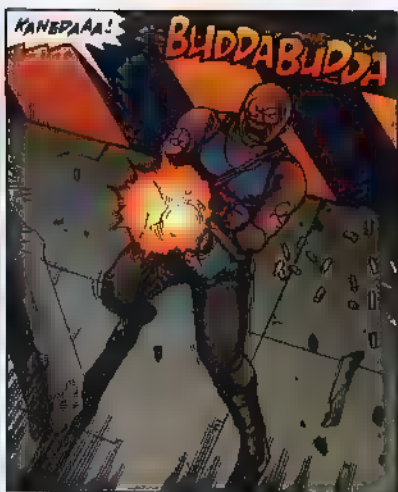


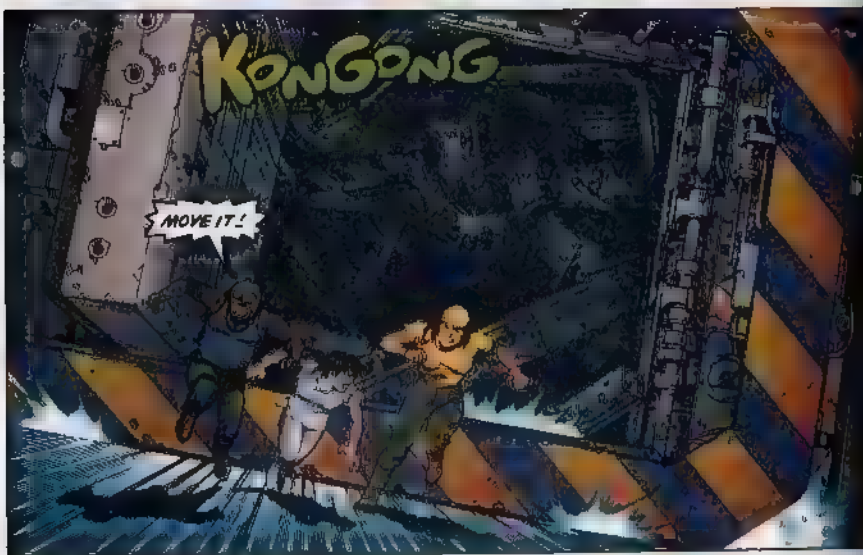
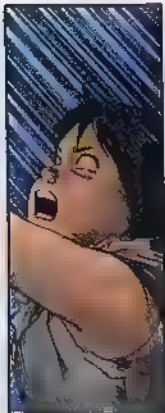
КРАДЯК













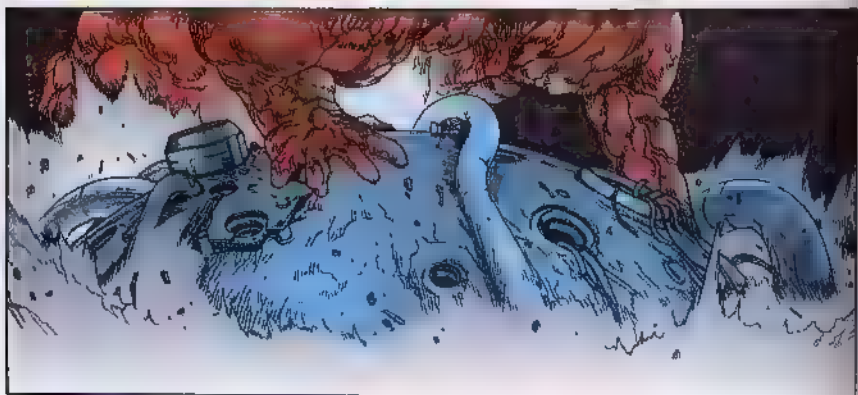
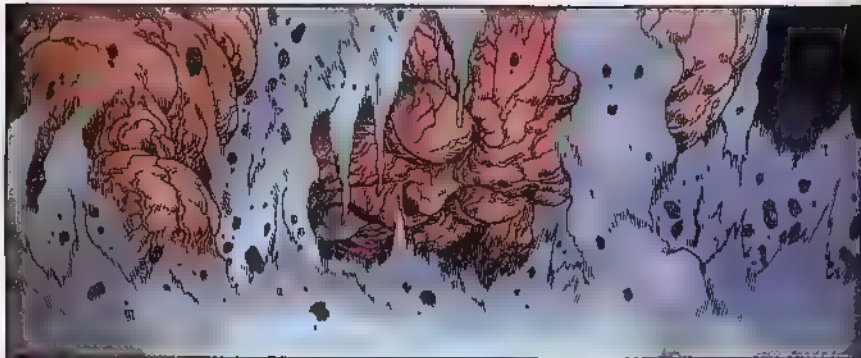
KONGGONG

GONGGONG

KONG KONG

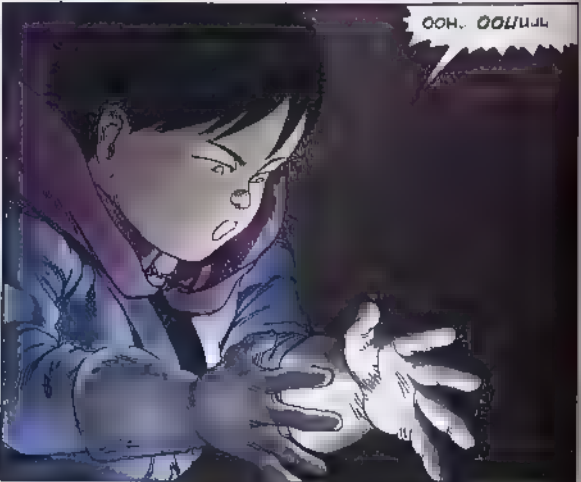
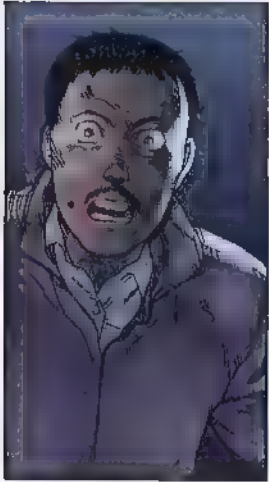
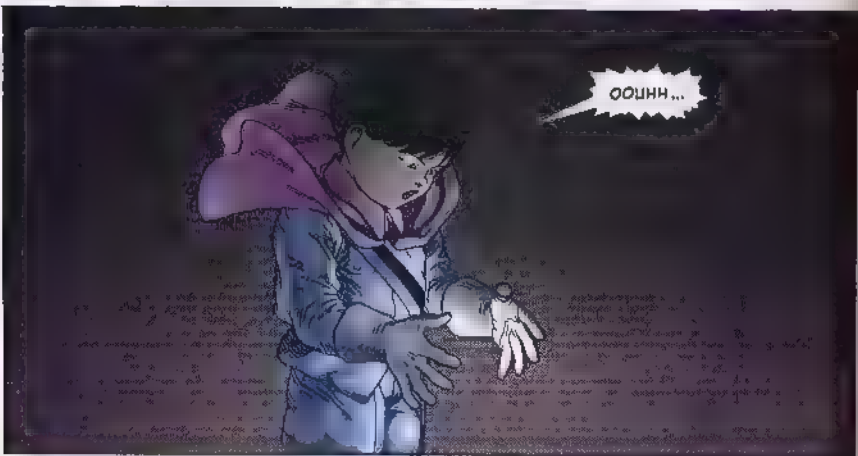
KONG

KONG  
KONGGONGGONG











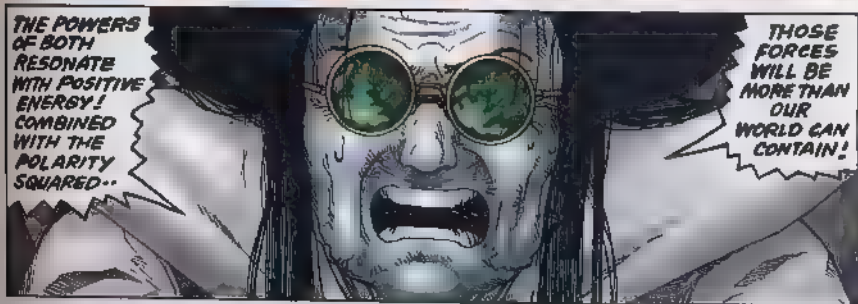
IT'S AKIRA!



WE HAVEN'T  
YET FINISHED  
WITH TETSUO!

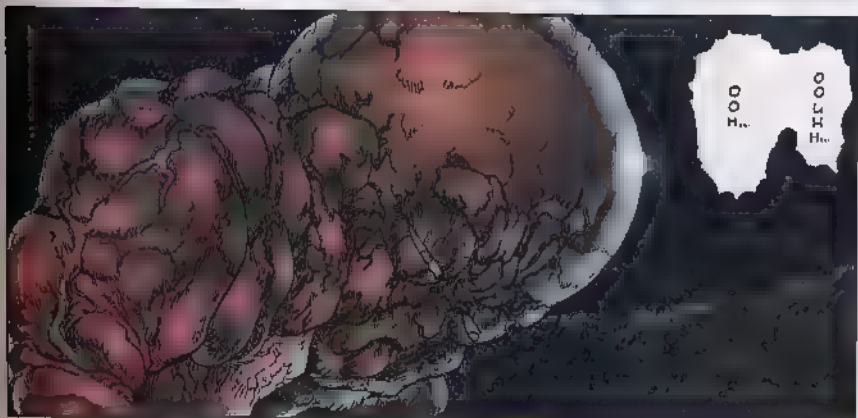


BEFORE  
WE'RE  
READY!!



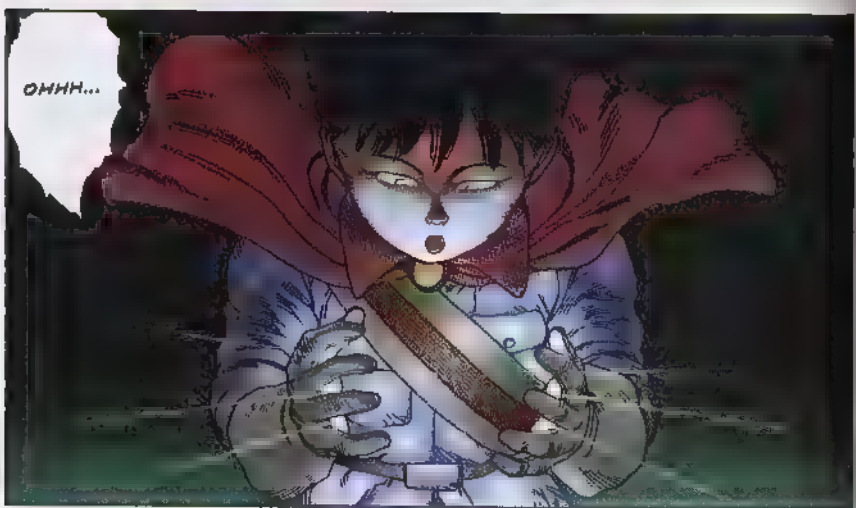
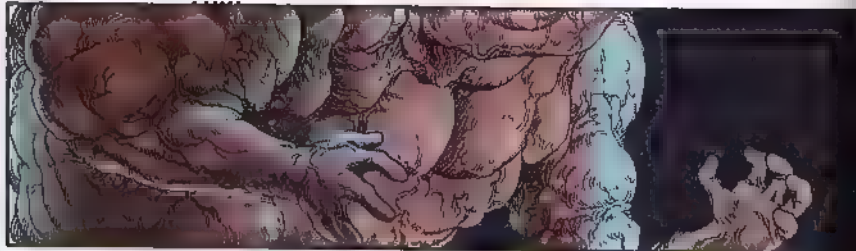
THE POWERS  
OF BOTH  
RESONATE  
WITH POSITIVE  
ENERGY!  
COMBINED  
WITH THE  
POLARITY  
SQUARED..

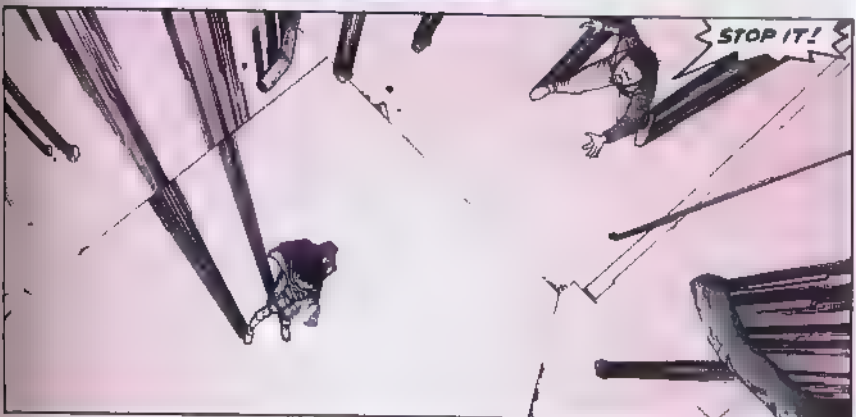
THOSE  
FORCES  
WILL BE  
MORE THAN  
OUR  
WORLD CAN  
CONTAIN!



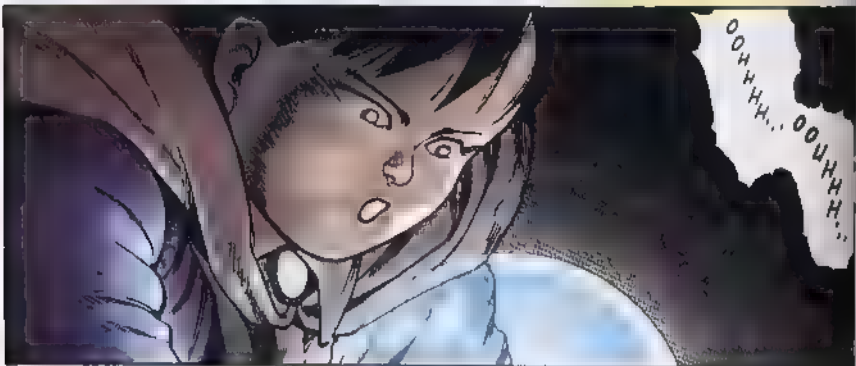
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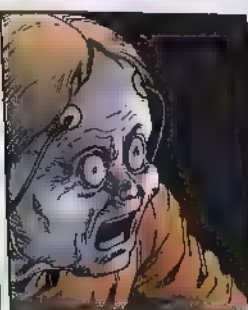
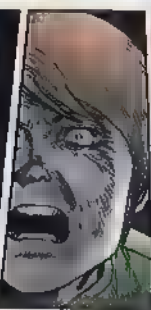
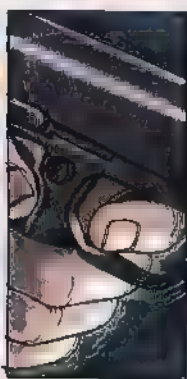
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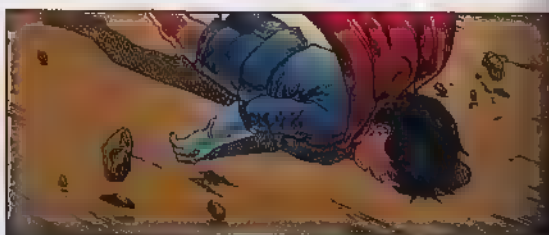
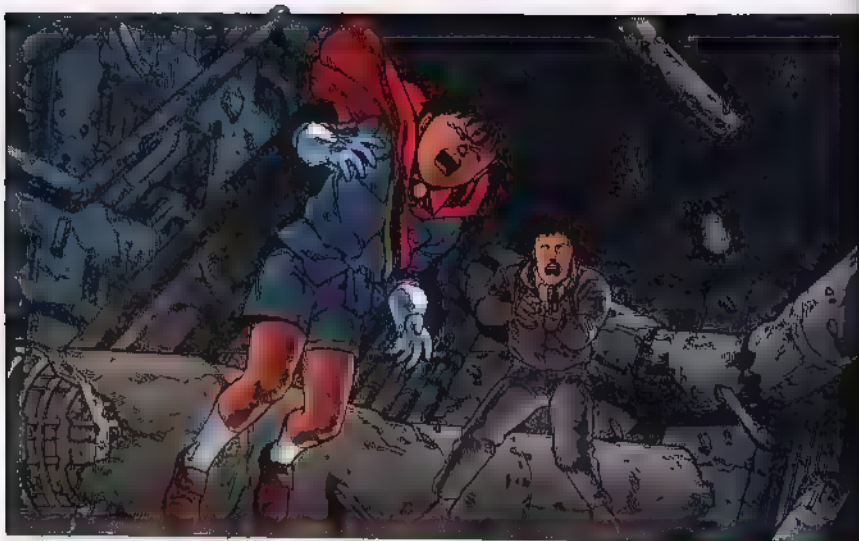


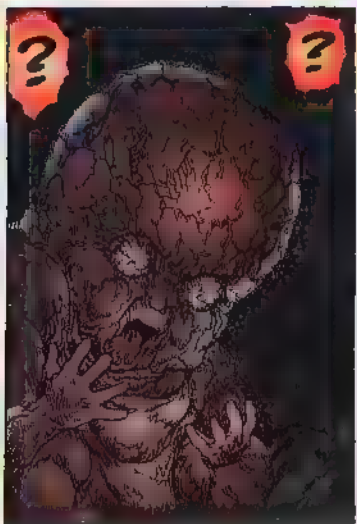
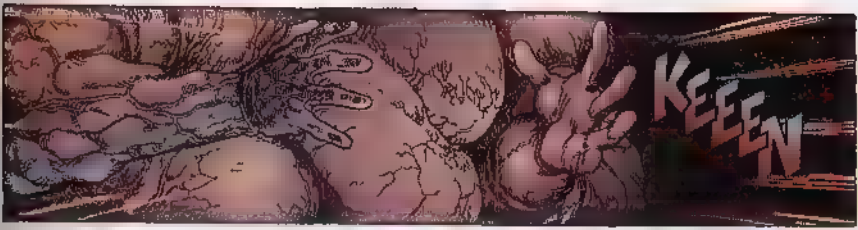




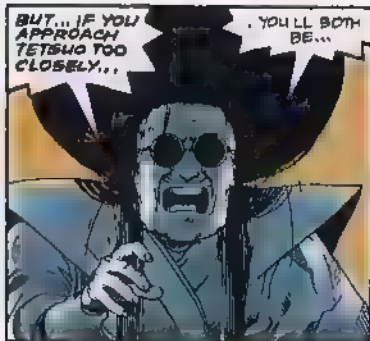




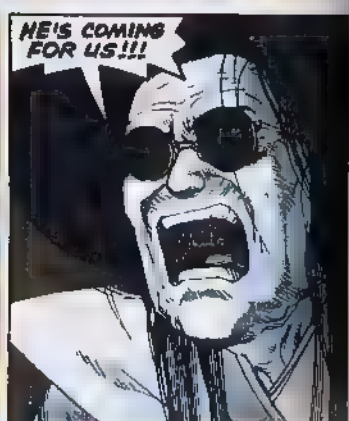
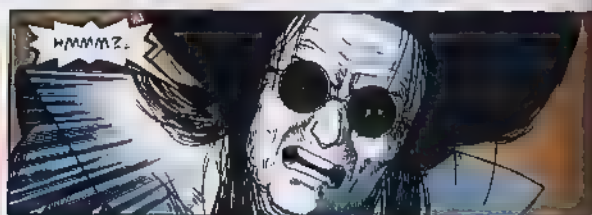
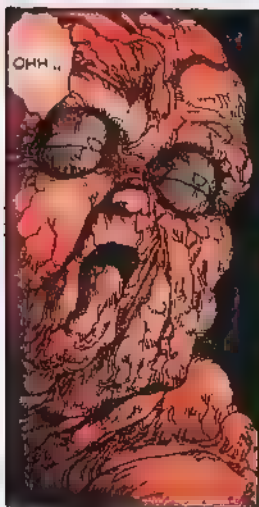
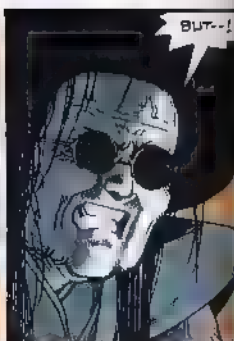
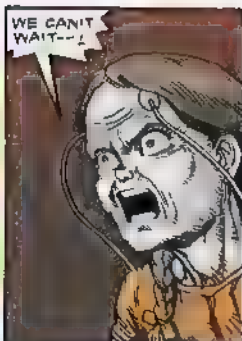


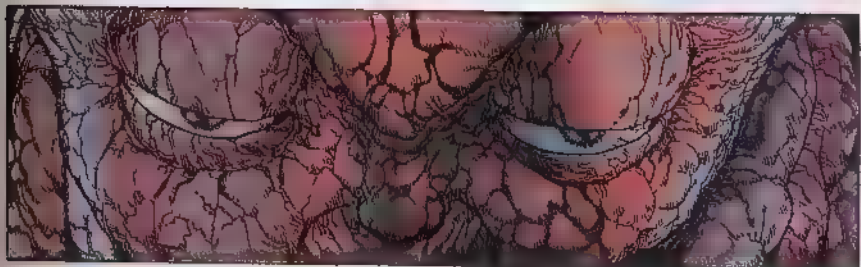
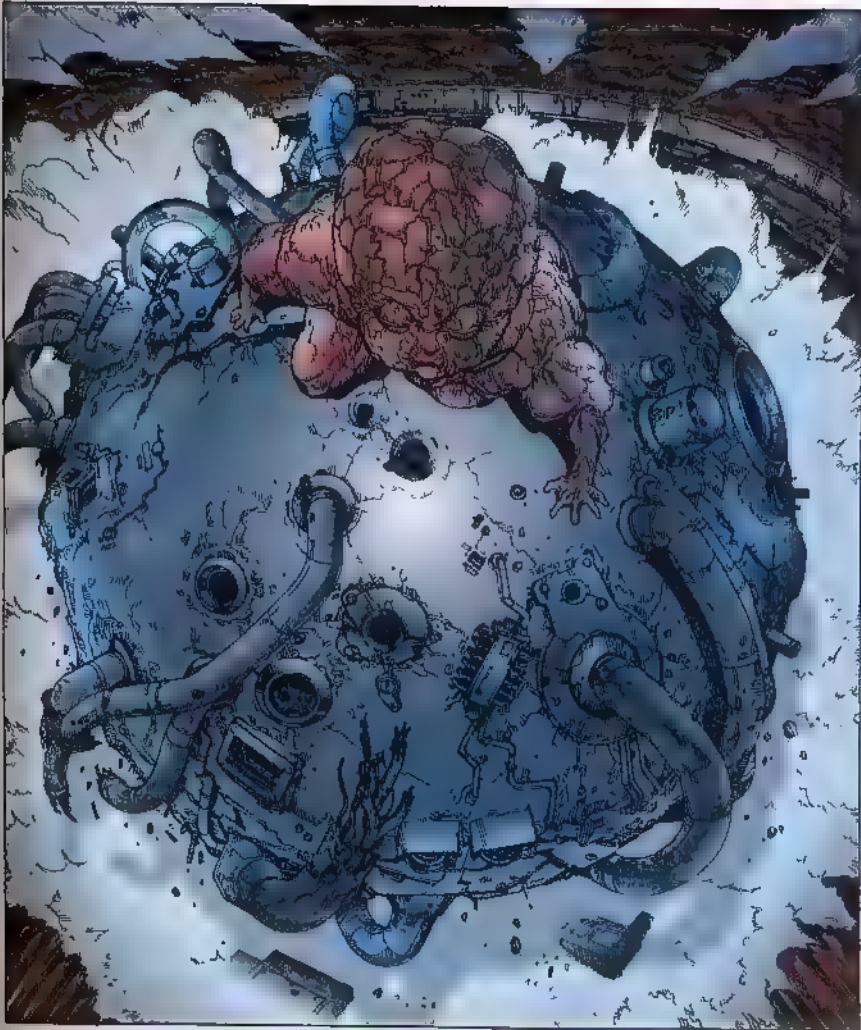


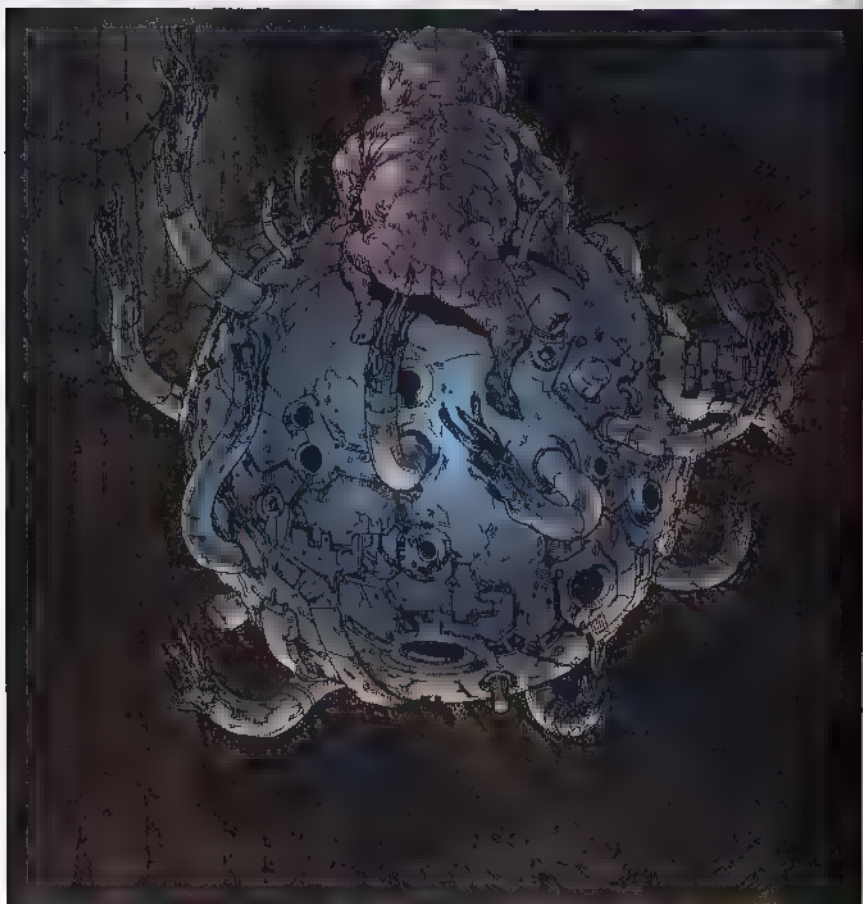
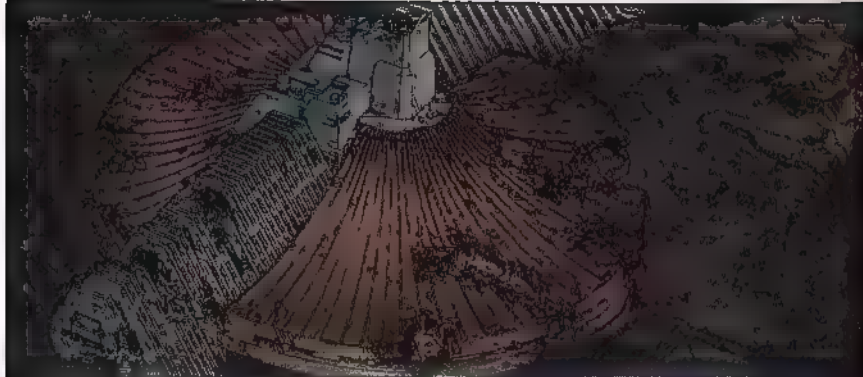




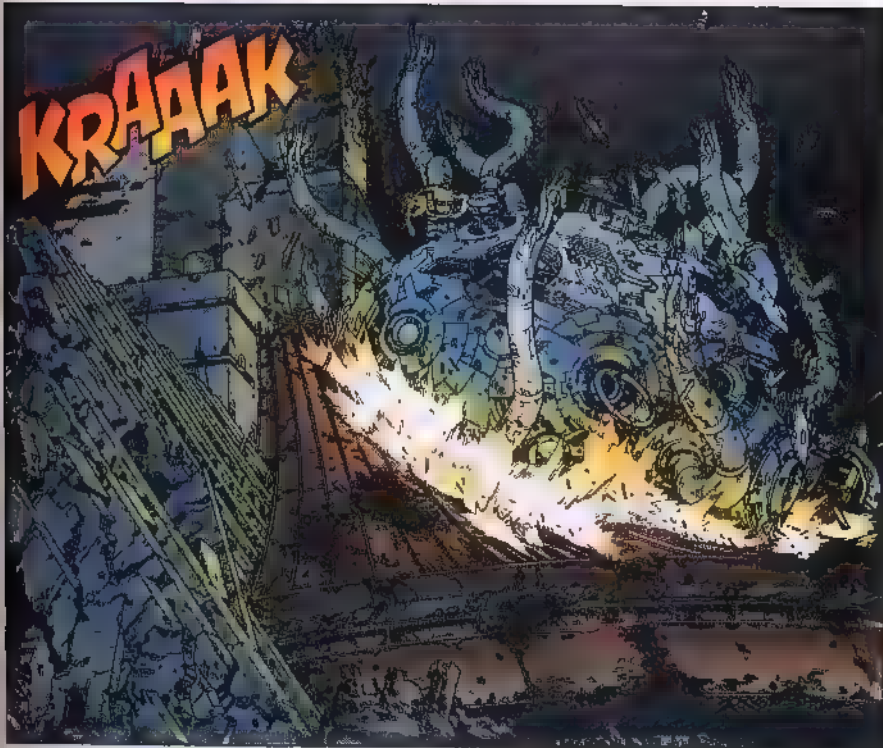
... YOU'LL BOTH  
BE...



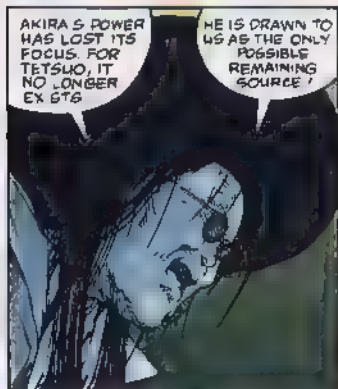
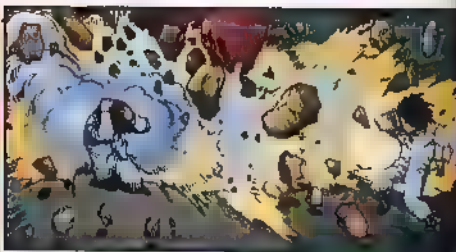














BUT...WHAT ABOUT YOU NUMBER 19?

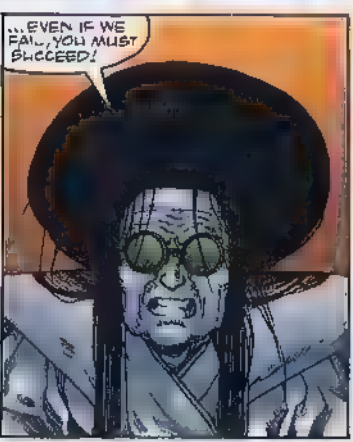


THE REST OF US WILL STAY AND DEAL WITH TETSUO... WE'LL FINISH HIM...

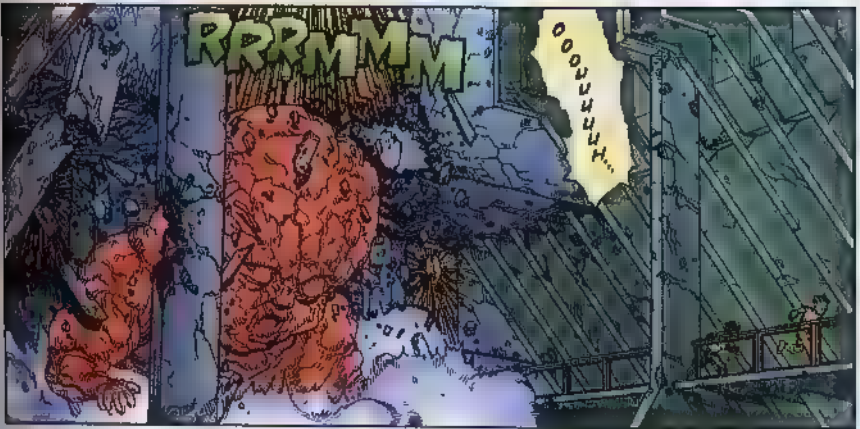
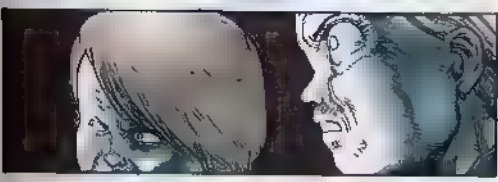


BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS...

...YOU MUST FREE AK RAI'S POWER...

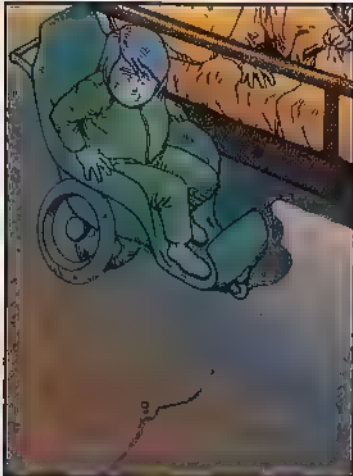


...EVEN IF WE FAIL... YOU MUST SUCCEED!

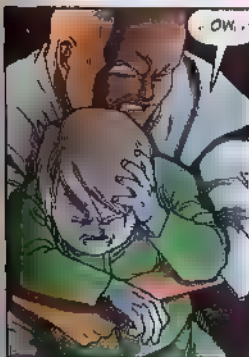
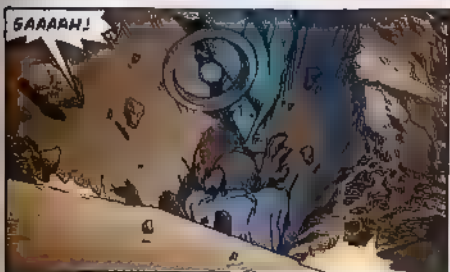
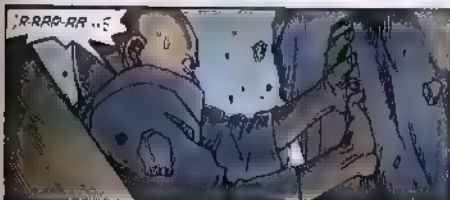
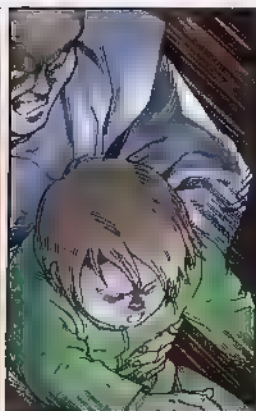
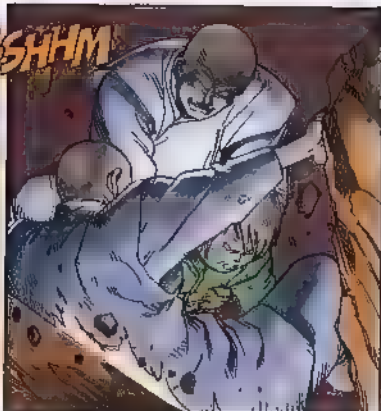


RRRRMMM

OOOHHHH...







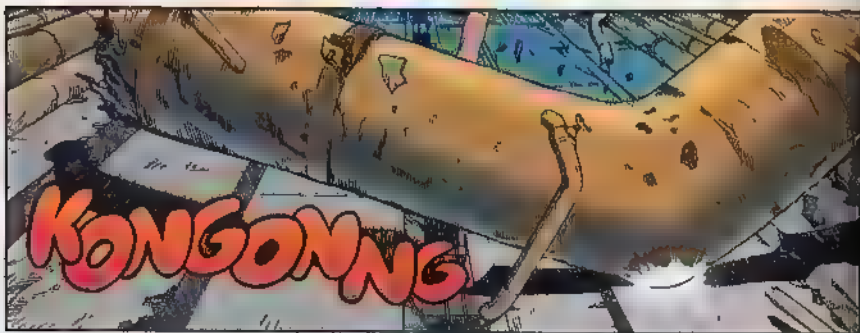




GONGONG



WHERE ARE YOU,  
KAY?



KONGONG



GONGONG

YIPE!

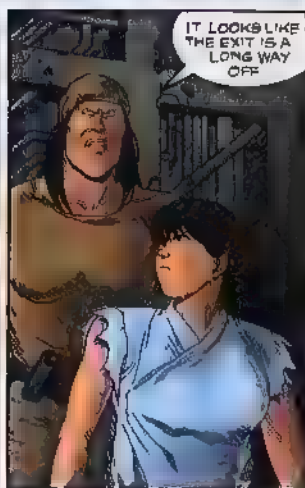
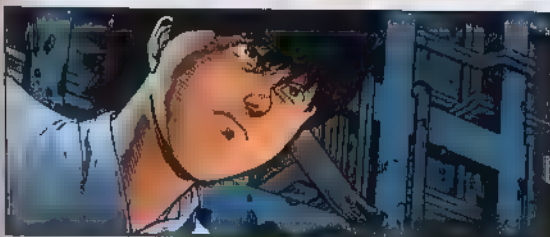
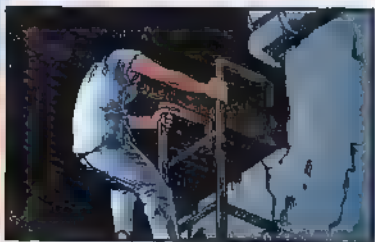
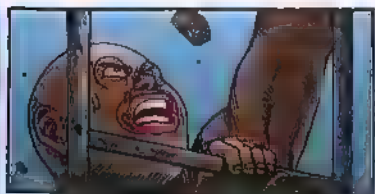
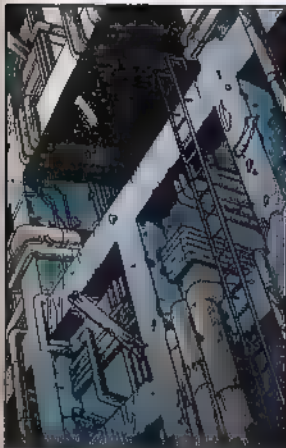


IT'S BAD  
ENOUGH  
WE HAVE  
TO WALK  
UP...

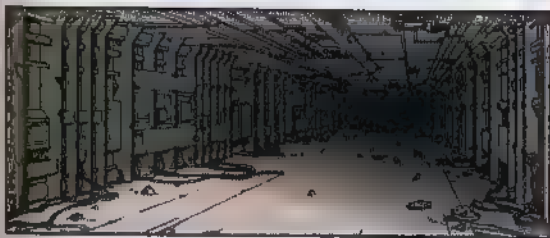
...WITHOUT ALL THE  
CRAP FALLIN' DOWN  
ON US!



LOOK! A  
LADDER!



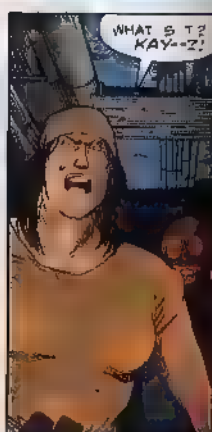
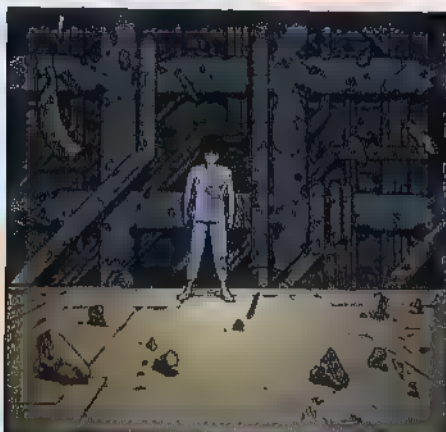
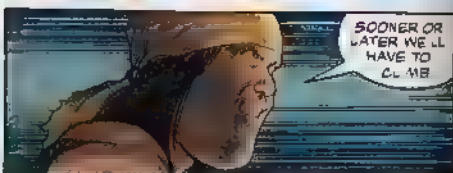
IT LOOKS LIKE  
THE EXIT IS A  
LONG WAY  
OFF

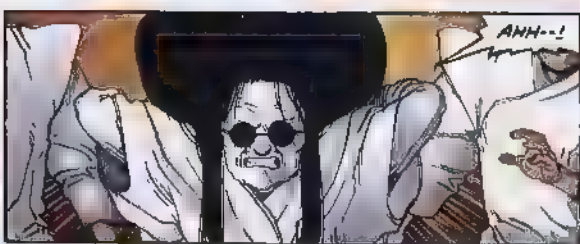
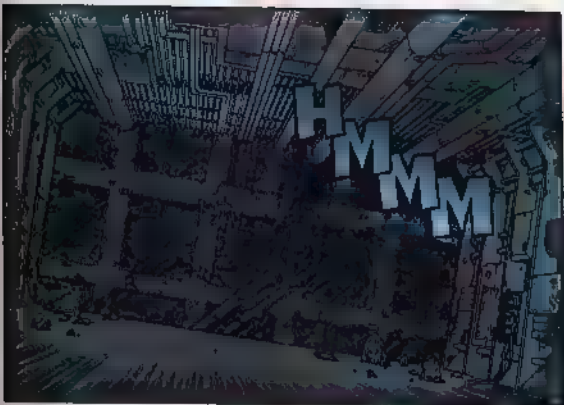


IT'S GOTTA  
BEAT STAY N  
DOWN HERE

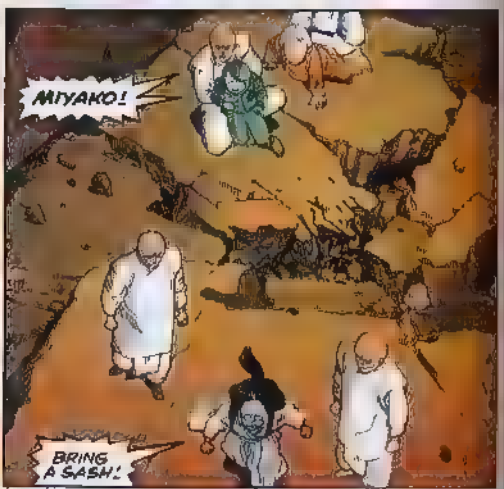
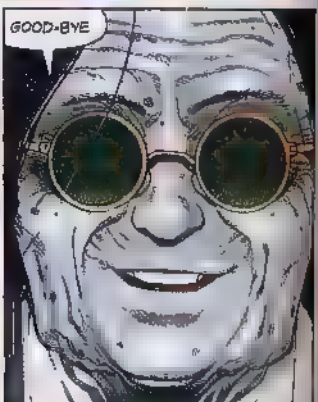
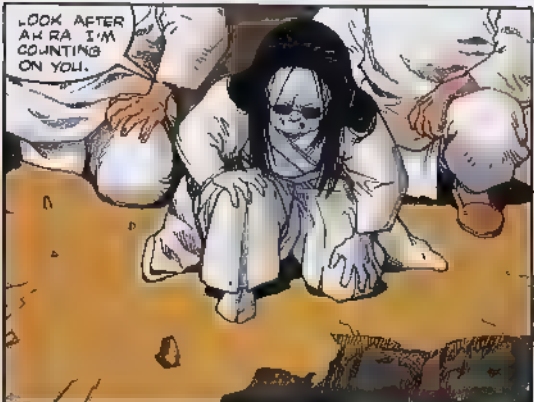
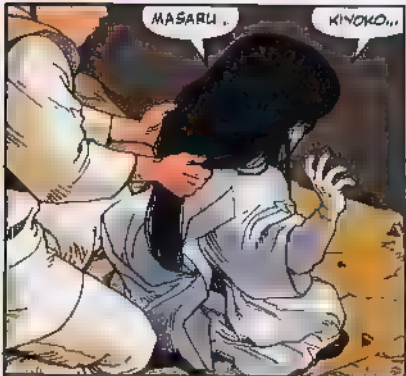
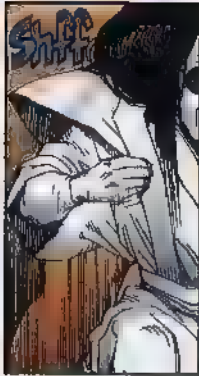


SOMEWHERE DOWN  
THERE IS A  
JUNCTURE THAT  
LEADS INTO THE  
NEO-TOKYO  
MUNICIPAL  
SEWERS

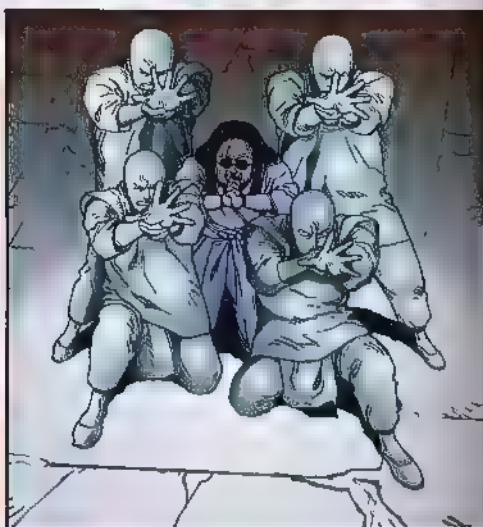










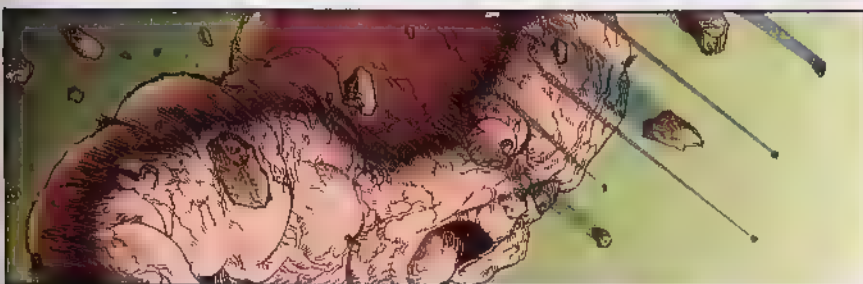




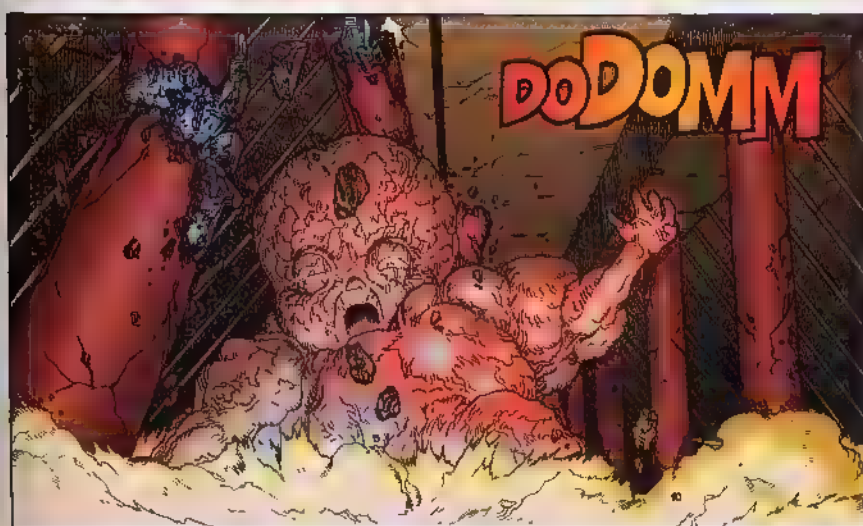
**RUMBLE  
RUMBLE**



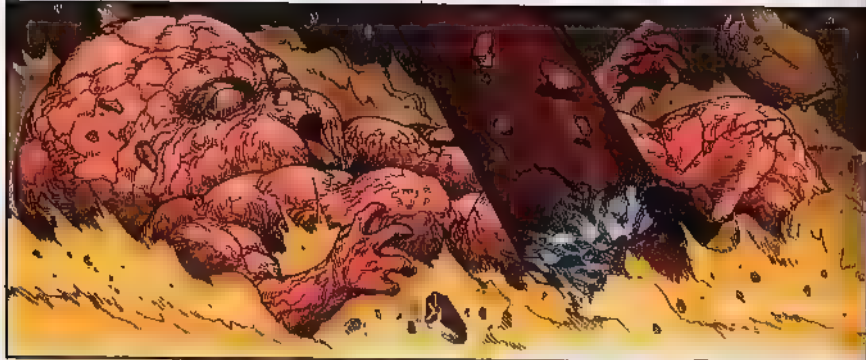
**HAAAAH!**



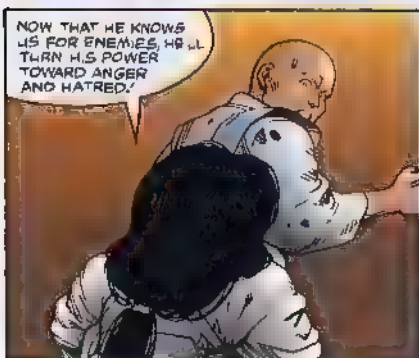
**DO DOMM**







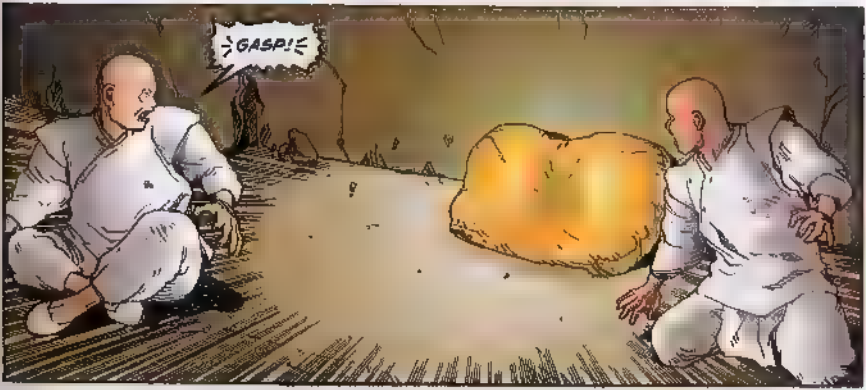
HE CAME HERE EXPECTING  
TO FIND NO AID... BUT AFTER  
A DOSE OF REALITY SUCH  
AS WE'VE JUST SLAPPED  
HIM WITH, HE'S BOUND  
TO GROW ANGRY

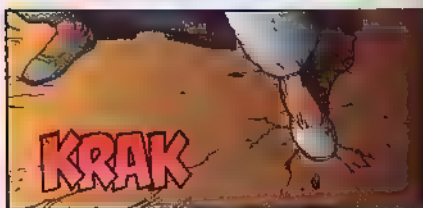


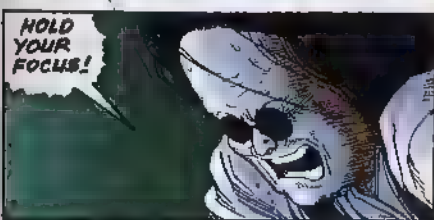
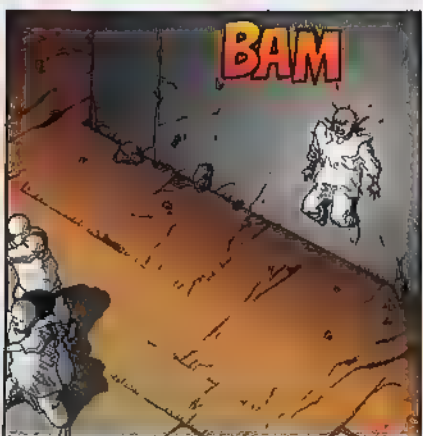
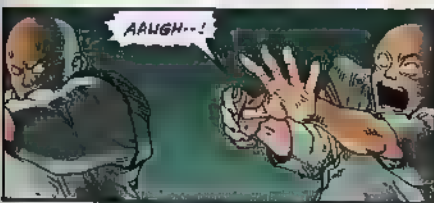
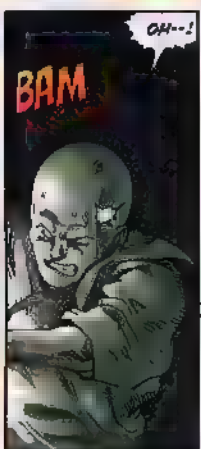
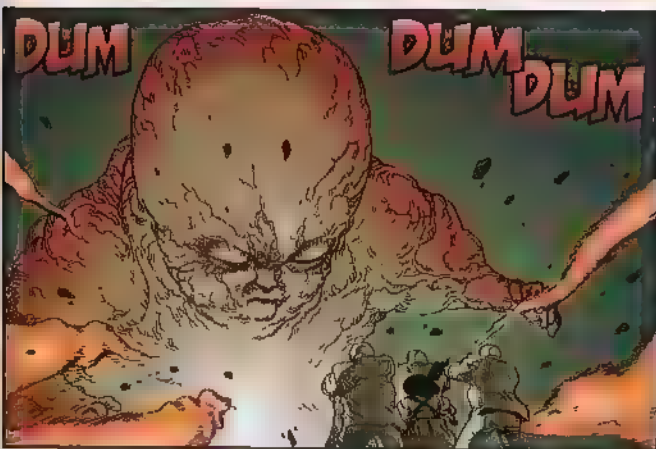
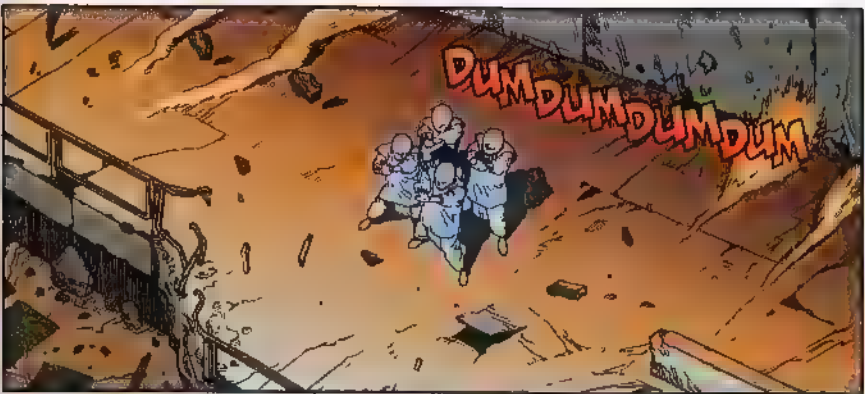
NOW THAT HE KNOWS  
US FOR ENEMIES, HE'LL  
TURN HIS POWER  
TOWARD ANGER  
AND HATRED.



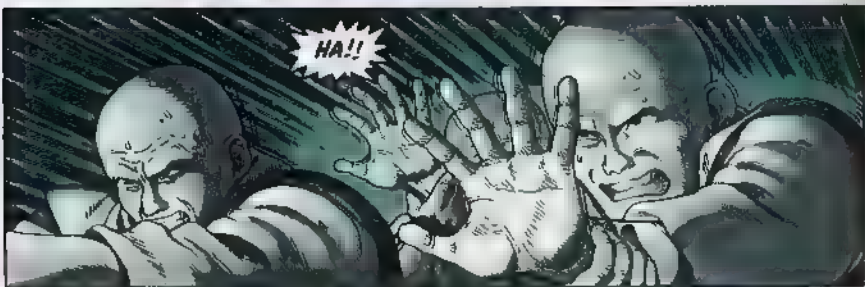
HIS ANGER IS  
WHAT WE MUST  
CONTROL. LET  
HIM FEED HIS  
POWER, AND WE  
CAN CHANNEL  
IT FOR  
GOOD

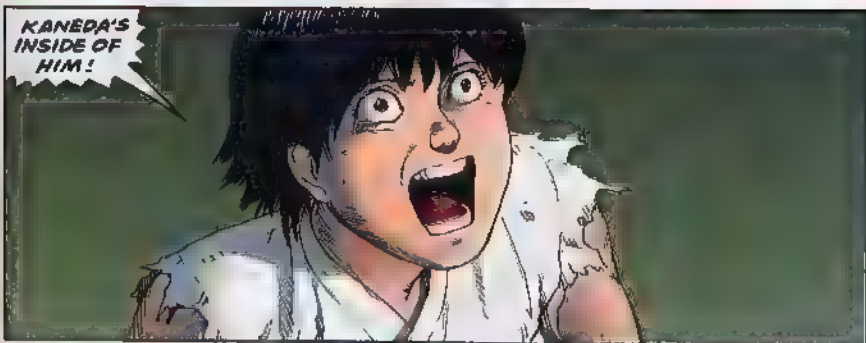


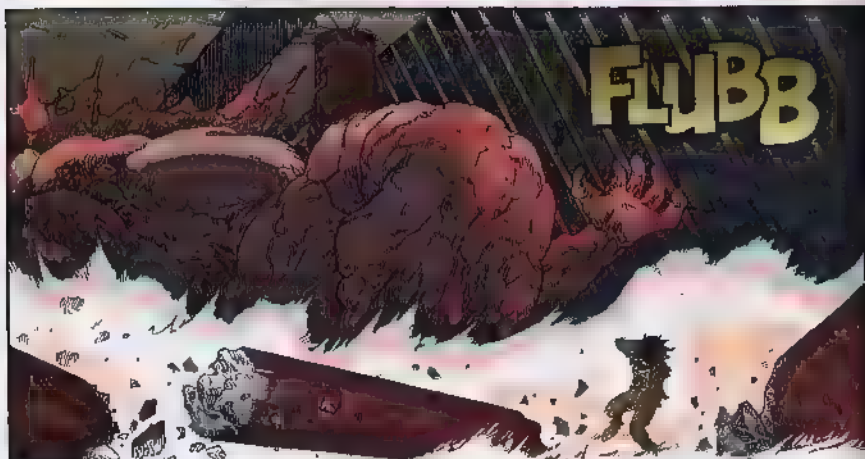
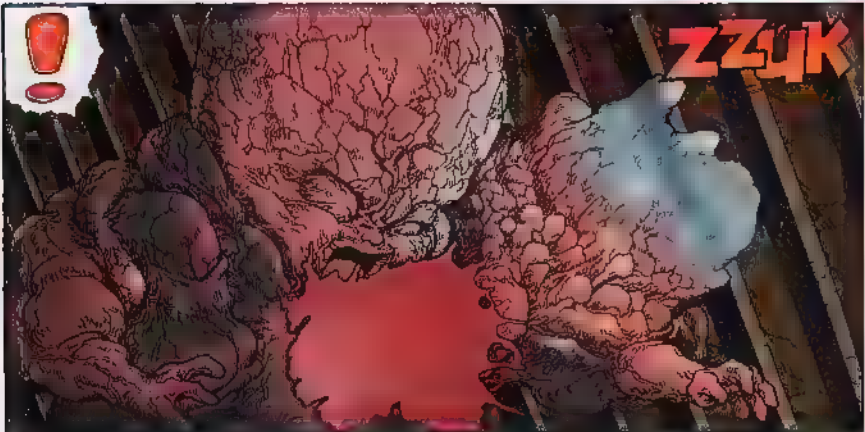




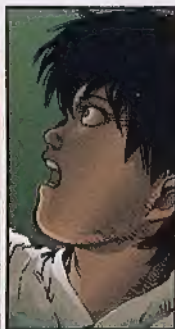
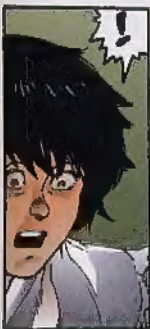




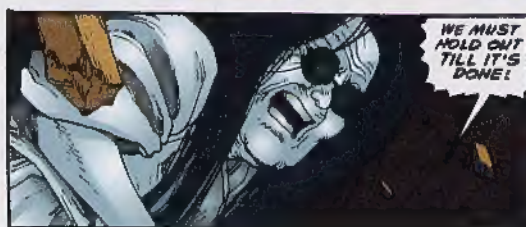
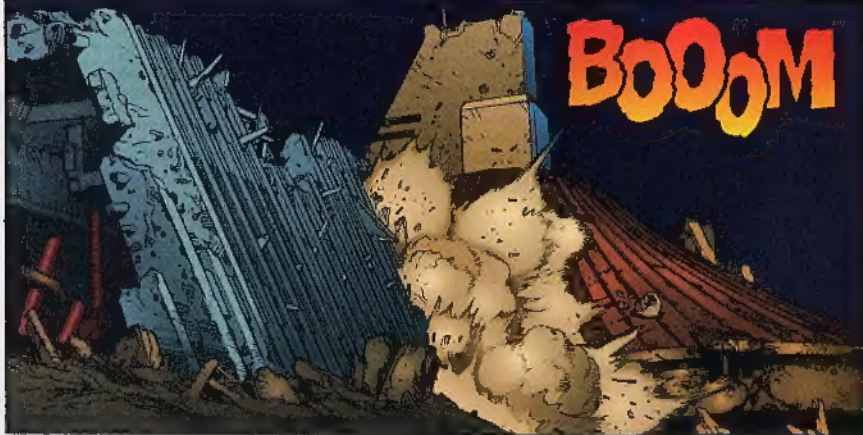














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P

ower is the name of the game of Neo-Tokyo, and God help any lost soul who gets in the way of the forces ravaging the future city. The mad Tetsuo turns on old friends, overwhelming with his raging energies and inhuman flesh. Backed into a corner, Lady Miyako must re-direct the psychic might of her followers from precious healing to desperate destruction. But it may finally be a military leader without a command who wins out this dark day, if the battered Colonel can find the strength to target a child Emperor named Akira...

...and do so simple a thing as pull a trigger.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION

